

Municipal Broadband: Continuing a Legacy of Serving the Community

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TMEPA

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Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association

Customer Focused  Community Driven

Tennessee's Municipal Electric Utilities

- 60 municipal electric utilities
- Serve 2.4 million homes and businesses
- 67% of state's electric customers
- 75% of the state's electricity
- Hold \$9.1 billion in assets
- Pay \$200 million in PILOT to local governments annually
- Employ over 7,000 people
- Multi-service utilities
 - 29 offer water/wastewater service
 - 11 offer natural gas
 - 14 offer broadband

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Why Municipal Electric Utilities Offer Broadband

- Tradition of service to the community
 - Many utilities have over 80 years of providing electric service
- Legislation passed in 1999
 - Offer cable television and Internet service in electric service area
- Utility communications
- Smart grid
- Benefits to electric customers
 - Reduces costs
 - Reduces outage minutes as much as 50%
- Economic development

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Current Municipal Broadband Providers

- Provide power to nearly 1 million Tennesseans
- Funded solely by customers purchasing broadband services
- Receive no tax money from local governments
- Pay more than \$6.5 million in PILOT to local government
- Proven to be a successful business model
- Nearly all provide gigabit speeds
 - First community-wide gigabit Internet service

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Current Municipal Broadband Providers

- EPB of Chattanooga
- Bristol
- Jackson
- Clarksville
- Tullahoma
- Morristown
- Columbia
- Erwin
- Pulaski
- BrightRidge (Johnson City)
- Milan
- Newport
- Union City
- Athens
- Dickson (likely coming soon)
- More to come...

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Serving the Community

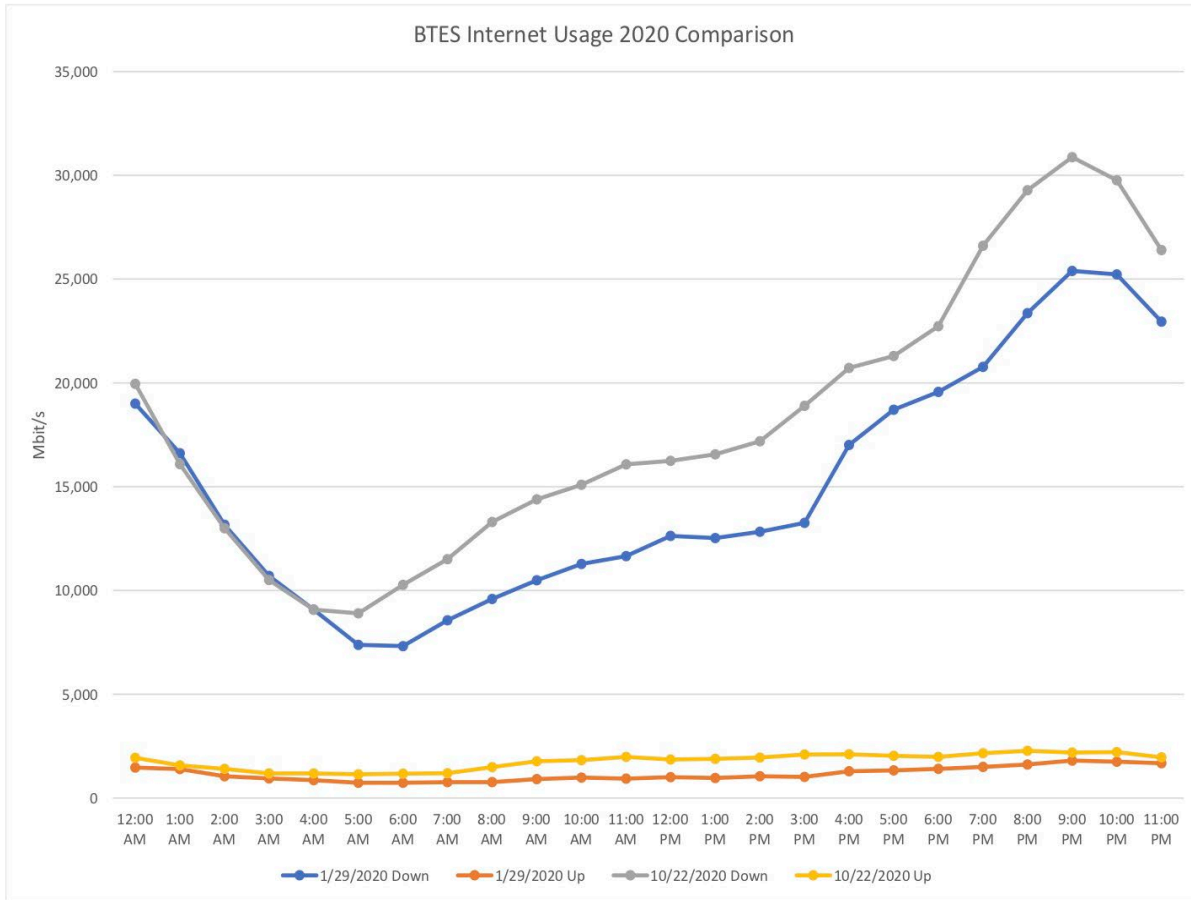
- Jackson Energy Authority
 - Free Wi-Fi in three public housing communities through local partnerships
- EPB of Chattanooga
 - No-cost home internet for 28,5000 students on free or reduced lunch program
- CDE Lightband (Clarksville)
 - Next day connection upgrade for school system from 10 to 20 Gig
- Newport Utilities
 - Public Wi-Fi access points at every public school

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Internet Usage During COVID-19 Pandemic



Bristol Tennessee Essential Services

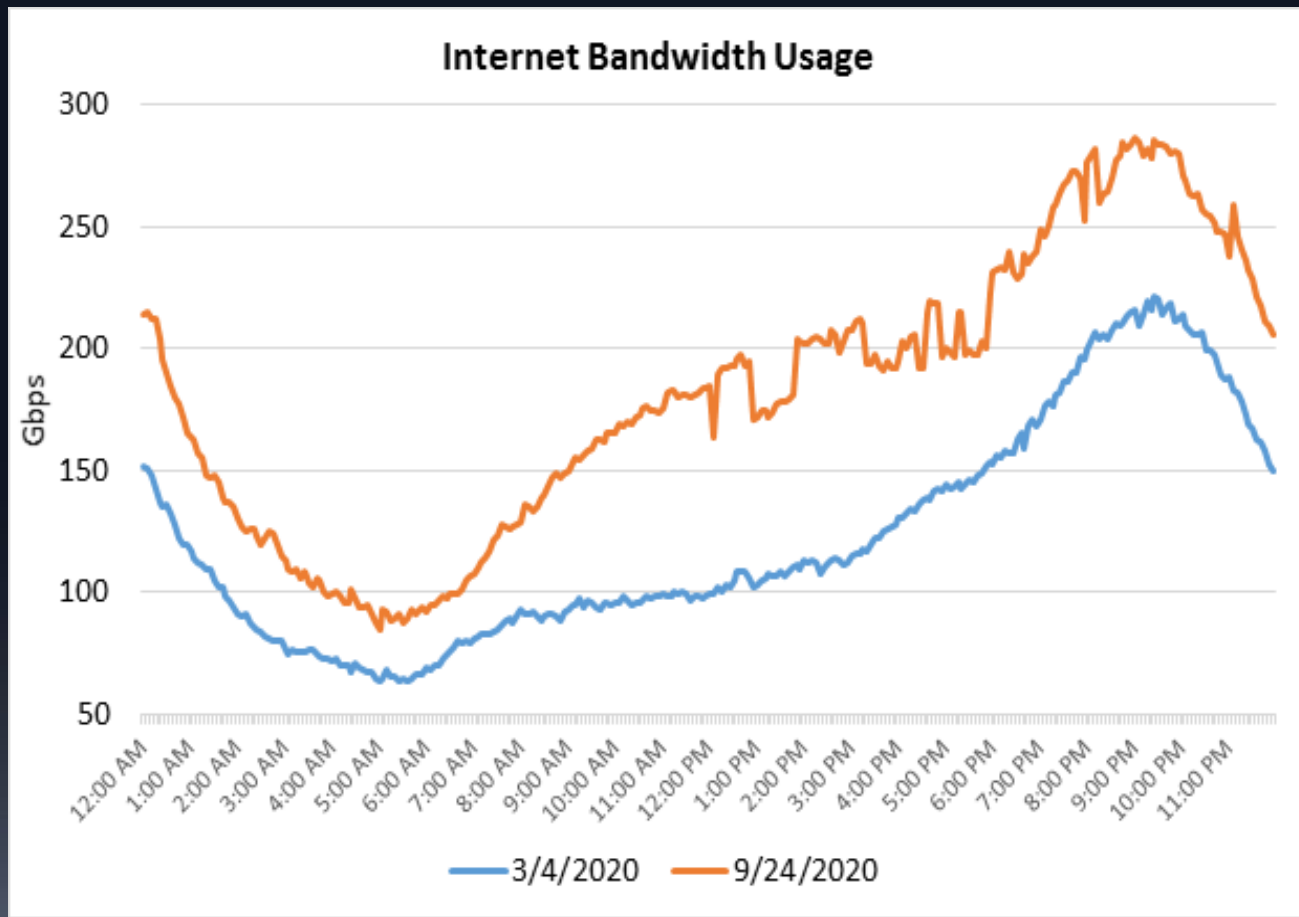
- 20% increase in usage
- 4.2% increase in Internet customers
- Increased subscriptions to higher speeds
- Allowing utility employees to work from home means millions in savings to customers

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Internet Usage During COVID-19 Pandemic



EPB of Chattanooga

- 48% increase in total daily volume
- 29% increase in peak usage
- Increased subscriptions to higher speeds
- Most people have 12 devices in their homes

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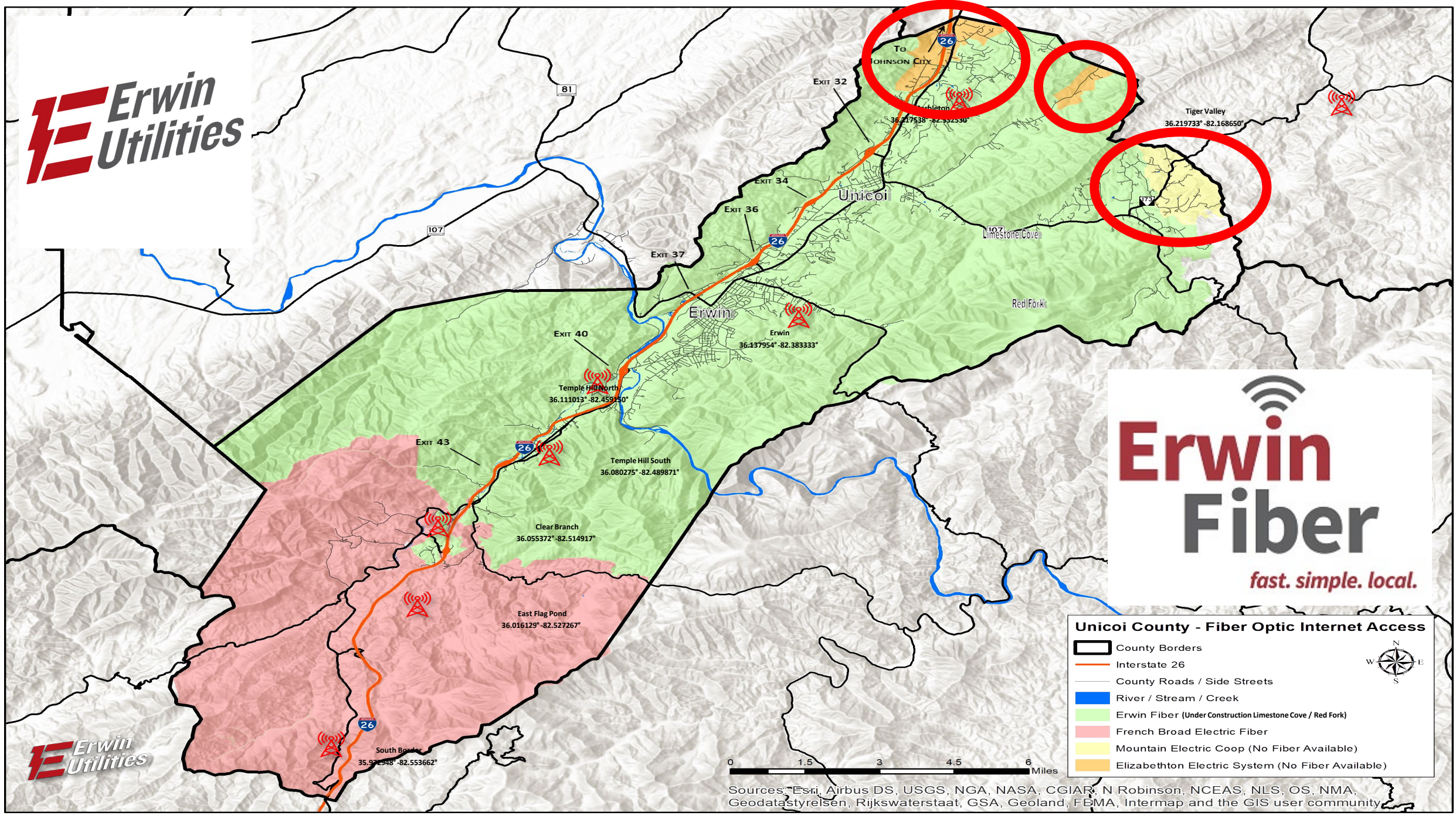
Going Forward for Municipal Broadband

- More municipal electric systems considering offering broadband
- New and current providers would benefit from partnerships with existing municipal broadband providers
 - Other municipal electric utilities
 - Electric cooperatives
 - Telephone cooperatives
 - Public-private partnerships
- Unserved and underserved communities deserve every option to get access to broadband

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

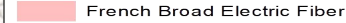
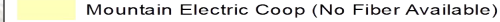
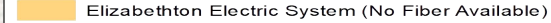
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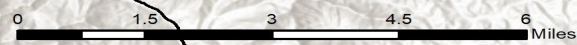



**Erwin
Fiber**
fast. simple. local.

Unicoi County - Fiber Optic Internet Access

-  County Borders
-  Interstate 26
-  County Roads / Side Streets
-  River / Stream / Creek
-  Erwin Fiber (Under Construction Limestone Cove / Red Fork)
-  French Broad Electric Fiber
-  Mountain Electric Coop (No Fiber Available)
-  Elizabethton Electric System (No Fiber Available)





Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community